This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 23, 2008. Claims 1 to 20 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 10, 17, 19 and 20 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The rejections are traversed. In particular, the language noted in the Office Action simply does not exist in the claims since the claims were amended in the July 8, 2008 Amendment to address the precise points noted in the Office Action. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112 rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,684,957 (Kondo) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,216,292 (Snapper), and Claims 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 and 18 were rejected under § 103(a) over Kondo in view of Snapper and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,666,502 (Capps). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to holding login history of a plurality of users based on the type of user. According to one aspect of the invention, user identification information for a plurality of users is stored in a storage unit, along with user type information indicating whether each of the plurality of users corresponds to a first or second type of user. When user identification information of a user is entered, a determination is made whether the entered user identification information corresponds to the first type of user or the second type of user based on the user type information stored in the storage unit. If the entered user corresponds to the first type of user, the login history of

- 14 -

the user corresponding to the entered user identification information is held without requesting the user to set the information whether to hold the login history even if it is the first time that the first type of user causes the device to perform the login process. On the other hand, if the entered user identification information corresponds to the second type of user, the user is requested to set the information whether to hold the login history.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 1 is directed to a device for performing a login process by using user identification information of a user input in an entry screen, comprising a storage unit configured to store user identification information of each of a plurality of users including a first type of user and a second type of user, and user type information indicating whether each of the plurality of users corresponds to the first type of user or the second type of user, a setting unit configured to set information whether to hold a login history for each user of the plurality of users, the login history being used for entering the user identification information in the entry screen, a holding unit configured to hold the login history for each user in accordance with the information set by the setting unit, a displaying unit configured to display the user identification information of users in which the information to hold the login history has been set based on the login history held in the holding unit, an entering unit configured to enter the user identification information of a user, a determining unit configured to determine whether the entered user identification information corresponds to the first type of user or the second type of user based on the user type information stored in the storage unit, and a controlling unit configured to cause the holding unit to hold the login history of the user corresponding to the entered user identification information without requesting the user to set the information whether to hold the login history in a case where the determining unit

determines that the entered user identification information corresponds to the first type of user even if it is the first time that the first type of user causes the device to perform the login process, and to control to request the user to set the information whether to hold the login history in a case where the determining unit determines that the entered user identification information corresponds to the second type of user, wherein the entering unit enters the user identification information in a case where any of the user identification information displayed on the displaying unit is selected.

Claims 10 and 19 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Claim 8 is along the lines of Claim 1, but is more specifically directed to a data processing device displaying an entry screen for entering user identification information and password information for a login process, comprising a storage unit configured to store user identification information and password information for each of a plurality of users, the user identification information and the password information being associated with each other, and user type information indicating whether each of the plurality of users corresponds to the first type of user or the second type of user, a setting unit configured to set information whether to hold the user identification information which is to be used for entering the user identification information in the entry screen, a display controlling unit configured to allow a display unit to display the user identification information that is set to be held by the setting unit on the entry screen, an entering unit configured to enter the user identification information and the password information on the entry screen, and a determining unit configured to determine whether the entered user identification information corresponds to the first type of user or the second type of user

based on the user type information stored in the storage unit, a controlling unit configured to cause a holding unit to hold login history of the user corresponding to the entered user identification information without requesting the user to set information whether to hold the login history in a case where the determining unit determines that the entered user identification information corresponds to a first type of user even if it is the first time that the first type of user causes the device to perform the login process, and controls to request the user to set the information whether to hold the login history in a case where the determining unit determines that the entered user identification information corresponds to a second type of user, wherein the entering unit enters the user identification information in a case where the user identification information displayed on the entry screen by the display controlling unit is selected.

Claims 17 and 20 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 8.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of i) determining whether entered user identification information corresponds to a first type of user or a second type of user based on user type information stored in a storage unit, and ii) controlling to cause a holding unit to hold login history of the user corresponding to the entered user identification information without requesting the user to set the information whether to hold the login history in a case where it is determined that the entered user identification information corresponds to the first type of user even if it is the first time that the first type of user causes the device to perform the login process, and to control to request the user to set the information whether to hold the

login history in a case where it is determined that the entered user identification information corresponds to the second type of user.

Kondo is seen to teach a network management system which holds a login record indicating a user's access to a network device connected to a network. According to Kondo, the network management system displays a record designated from the login records on an output device. (see column 20, lines 37 - 53). However, according to Kondo, the login record is not used for entering user identification information. Also, the network system holds every access to a network device. Therefore, Kondo fails to teach the features of i) determining whether entered user identification information corresponds to a first type of user or a second type of user based on user type information stored in a storage unit, and ii) controlling to cause a holding unit to hold login history of the user corresponding to the entered user identification information without requesting the user to set the information whether to hold the login history in a case where it is determined that the entered user identification information corresponds to the first type of user even if it is the first time that the first type of user causes the device to perform the login process, and to control to request the user to set the information whether to hold the login history in a case where it is determined that the entered user identification information corresponds to the second type of user.

Snapper is seen to teach a web browser which questions a user whether to store an entered password when the user enters his/her user name and password. According to Snapper, the web browser does not question a user whether to store an entered password upon initial visit to a web site which requires entering user name and password. Accordingly, Snapper is not seen to teach anything that, when combined with

- 18 -

Kondo, would have resulted in the features of i) determining whether entered user identification information corresponds to a first type of user or a second type of user based on user type information stored in a storage unit, and ii) controlling to cause a holding unit to hold login history of the user corresponding to the entered user identification information without requesting the user to set the information whether to hold the login history in a case where it is determined that the entered user identification information corresponds to the first type of user even if it is the first time that the first type of user causes the device to perform the login process, and to control to request the user to set the information whether to hold the login history in a case where it is determined that the entered user identification information corresponds to the second type of user.

Capps is merely seen to teach setting a number of names to be displayed in a history list. However, Capps is not seen to teach anything that, when combined with Kondo and/or Snapper, would have resulted in at least the features of i) determining whether entered user identification information corresponds to a first type of user or a second type of user based on user type information stored in a storage unit, and ii) controlling to cause a holding unit to hold login history of the user corresponding to the entered user identification information without requesting the user to set the information whether to hold the login history in a case where it is determined that the entered user identification information corresponds to the first type of user even if it is the first time that the first type of user causes the device to perform the login process, and to control to request the user to set the information whether to hold the login history in a case where it is determined that the entered user identification information corresponds to the second type of user.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 8, 10, 17, 19 and 20, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable over any permissible combination of Kondo, Snapper and/or Capps.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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